

10/10/10 - intended gift from the working Tex

Diary 21

10/10/10

0/15/10



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/curiosrelicscotlinc_68

Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Watch

Intended Gift from Abraham
Lincoln to Mary Todd

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

SAYS MISSING WATCH OF LINCOLN IS FOUND

**Baltimore Collector Asserts He
Has Gift Bought for Mary Todd
Which She Never Received.**

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 3.—When an old-fashioned watch ornamented with diamonds came into the hands of a Baltimore art collector recently the nearly century-old legend and mystery of what became of Abraham Lincoln's intended wedding gift to his bride was solved, according to the collector.

The watch which Lincoln purchased was to be a bridal gift for Mary Todd, but it was given, presumably by a mistake, according to historians, to a Miss Mary Curtis, a celebrated Kentucky beauty. The timepiece was sold to Lincoln for \$300.

James M. Swartz, the collector, says that he has acquired the missing watch.

Early in December of last year, Mr. Swartz said, a little woman went into an art collector's shop in Washington and, after exacting a promise not to divulge her name, with trembling hands offered the watch for sale.

The woman related that she had been the lifelong friend of Mary Curtis and that in 1872 the latter, just before her death, had given the watch to her to safeguard and keep always.

SAYS MISSING WATCH OF LINCOLN IS FOUND

**Baltimore Collector Asserts He
Has Gift Bought for Mary Todd
Which She Never Received.**

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 3.—When an old-fashioned watch ornamented with diamonds came into the hands of a Baltimore art collector recently the nearly century-old legend and mystery of what became of Abraham Lincoln's intended wedding gift to his bride was solved, according to the collector.

The watch which Lincoln purchased was to be a bridal gift for Mary Todd, but it was given, presumably by a mistake, according to historians, to a Miss Mary Curtis, a celebrated Kentucky beauty. The timepiece was sold to Lincoln for \$300.

James M. Swartz, the collector, says that he has acquired the missing watch.

Early in December of last year, Mr. Swartz said, a little woman went into an art collector's shop in Washington and, after exacting a promise not to divulge her name, with trembling hands offered the watch for sale.

The woman related that she had been the lifelong friend of Mary Curtis and that in 1872 the latter, just before her death, had given the watch to her to safeguard and keep always.

*New York Tribune
Jan 4 - 1932*

WATCH LINCOLN GAVE TO 'MARY'

**Beautiful Instrument Was Bought
For One Girl and Given
To Another.**

A watch ornamented with diamonds, meant for Mary Todd, but which she never saw, was given by Abraham Lincoln to Mary Curtis, of Louisville, in 1841 by mistake. Now it has been turned over to a collector of rare documents, coins and stamps, for sale to a museum.

An aged woman went into the collector's shop in Washington, and, while exacting a promise from him not to divulge her name, with trembling hands gave him the treasured gift in its inlaid box and a letter in a glass frame. She had recently met with financial reverses, she said.

Just before her death Mary Curtis gave the watch to her dearest friend. The letter in which she mentions the incident accompanies the watch.

The watch was bought by Lincoln when he was a young lawyer. It cost about \$300 even in those days.

No one knows just what the watch will bring. A letter from Lincoln transmitting a \$5 check to a crippled soldier recently brought \$50,000. Three of the largest private collectors in the United States and two museums are bidding for the watch.

"To Mary Todd."

The watch is of gold, but each side is blue with a cluster of diamonds. On the inside is the inscription, "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841."

Here is the story: On Jan. 1, 1841, Lincoln broke his engagement to Mary Todd. He left Springfield with John Speed. Two weeks later he returned to visit at the home of William Butler.

Visiting the Butlers at the time was Mary N. Curtis, a celebrated beauty from Louisville. She had known Lincoln for some time.

Meets Lincoln.

They met in the parlor of the Butler home and Miss Curtis was impressed by the pallor of Lincoln's face.

After talking with her for a few minutes he put his hand in his waistcoat pocket and said, "Mary, I've got something for you." He handed her the watch.

She thanked him, and then was so perturbed that she retired to her room.

It is a well known fact that Lincoln was at times absent minded. Utterly occupied with thoughts of the Mary he had asked to be his wife, with whom he had quarreled, he gave the watch to the first Mary he saw.

Lincoln was poor in the world's goods but popular and outstanding even then. To Miss Curtis, receiving a gift from him, could mean only one thing. She returned to Louisville believing herself engaged to him.

After her return home, upon opening the watch to wind it—it is of the type that requires a winding key—she noticed the inscription to Mary Todd.

It is not difficult to imagine how she felt. She had not refused the watch. That she loved Lincoln may be assumed from that. That she placed the watch in her trunk and never did return it is more difficult to explain. That she could have told Lincoln she understood and that she did not wish to keep it is obvious.

A "Situation."

Lincoln could not ask her for its return. And how could he tell his fiancée what had happened? Neither could Mary Curtis tell Mary Todd about it, especially after she became Mrs. Lincoln, and it would have been even more difficult after she became First Lady of the Land.

That Miss Curtis remembered the incident and treasured the watch throughout her life is shown from the letter she wrote to Elizabeth Cole DeWitt when she sent her the watch. Here is the letter:

June 7, 1932.

"My Dear Elizabeth: With the return of Spring, I am so happy as I love the flowers and all nature in her coat of green. Most of all I long for the time when I will see you again and we will talk of the times so happily spent together. Only a sweet memory, dear Elizabeth, cherished so fondly.

"I wonder do you still draw. We could make some drawings together. I still cling to my art. I know you used to do very beautiful things.

"Dear Elizabeth, your birthday is on the 29th you say. I remember it always and I want you to make me very happy this year and accept a present that will give me much happiness in the giving, as it was a very happy and sad remembrance.

"Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave me that memorable afternoon of January, 1841, with the inscription, 'To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841.'? Well, I want you to accept it from me and keep it as a remembrance of me when I pass to the great beyond, dear Elizabeth.

"I feel sure you will do this for me, as it will make me very happy. I will send the watch by Harry upon his return.

"Dr. White feels that my cold is improving and I will be well again this Summer.

"Good-bye dearest faithful friend, I so hope to see you soon.

"With all my love.

"MARY."

THE
CAMERON
41 WEST 86TH STREET
NEW YORK

Sept 10, 1934.

Mrs. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana,
Dear Sir,

I have a watch 18 Kt. gold,
set with diamonds and blue
emeralds (engraved - To Mary Todd
from A. L. 1841). The wooden
box in which the watch is contained
is contemporary with it.

Accompanying the watch are
all necessary papers, letters, and
certifications showing that the
watch was purchased by Abraham
Lincoln for Mary Todd but on the
breaking of their engagement was
given to Mary Currier.

If you are interested in this
item I shall be glad to send
you a transcript of all the
papers concerning the watch and
its history. If you desire to
have a price on the watch I
will quote a most reasonable
figure.

Sincerely yours,
Victor Spartz.

P.S. I can send the watch
on approval or the photographs.

Cur. Family

September 13, 1934

Mr. Victor Sparks
41 West 86th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Thank you for calling to our attention the watch Lincoln is said to have bought for Mary Todd but I am sure we would not care to acquire it.

Most of our attention here is given to the collecting of books and manuscripts and we have not attempted to do very much in the way of collecting curios.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:LH

Director

GIFT FROM LINCOLN TO GIRL IN EXHIBIT

It Is a Watch He Got for Mary
Todd in 1841, Then Gave to
a Louisville Belle.

ON DISPLAY WEDNESDAY

Many Other Articles Included
in the Show Arranged by
Boys' Club Here.

A gold watch that Abraham Lincoln bought for his fiancée and then gave to another girl will be shown for the first time publicly on Lincoln's birthday. It is one of the 250-odd items of the Lincoln exhibit which is being sponsored by the Madison Square Boys Club and which will be opened at the Hotel Lincoln on Wednesday.

The front and back of the watch are ornamented with small diamonds and enameled in dark blue. On the inside of the back is the inscription, "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841." But the watch never was given to Miss Todd. Lincoln and his fiancée quarreled. Although they later made up and were married, Lincoln gave the watch to Miss Mary N. Curtis, a belle of Louisville, Ky.

Kept the Gift a Secret.

Miss Curtis kept the gift a secret and thirty-one years later she passed the watch on to a friend, Miss Elizabeth De Witt. In an accompanying letter, the original of which is also included in the exhibit, Miss Curtis wrote:

"Dear Elizabeth, your birthday is on the 29th. I remember it always, and I want you to make me very happy and accept a present that will give me much happiness in the giving, as it was a very happy and sad remembrance. Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave me that memorable afternoon of January, 1841? Well, I want you to accept it from me and keep it as a remembrance of me when I pass to the great beyond, dear Elizabeth."

Miss De Witt kept the watch until she, too, was an old woman. But four years ago, her fortune dwindled, she was obliged to sell it. Joseph Krushkal, a New York furrier, is its present owner. He received it from a Washington antique dealer as payment for a bill.

Mayor to Open Exhibition.

The exhibition, which is insured for \$200,000, will be opened by Mayor La Guardia and will continue until Feb. 22. It includes letters, photographs, political cartoons, busts, newspapers and books about Lincoln. The Museum of the City of New York, the Library of Congress and the New York Public

Library have all lent items. Gabriel Wells has lent both a transcript of the Thirteenth Amendment signed by Lincoln and the gold pen with which he signed the proclamation emancipating the slaves.

Two of the portraits have never been publicly exhibited before. One was painted by Thomas Hicks in 1860 and shows Lincoln as a beardless young man, and the other was painted by G. V. Cooper in 1865 and is now owned by A. E. Rueff of Brooklyn.

ASK

From October Release of
Jewelry Industry Council
366 5th Ave. - New York City

The Lincoln-Todd Watch

The Life and Time of Abraham Lincoln Exhibition in New York in 1936, according to the Jewelry Industry Council, included in its collection a watch which bore the following inscription: "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841". However, it appears that Mary Todd never received this watch. When Lincoln failed to appear for his wedding to Miss Todd on New Year's Day, 1841, he remained away for two weeks, during which time he met Mary N. Curtis, a Kentucky beauty. Although there is no evidence to indicate he was infatuated with her, he gave her the watch. She kept it more than thirty years, and before her death gave it to a girlhood friend who owned it another eighteen years until financial reverses compelled her to sell it in 1890 to the mayor of New York City. A few years ago the watch came into the hands of Mano Swartz of Baltimore, an art collector, and finally became the property of Joseph Kruskal of New York. The watch, which has a Swiss movement, has a blue enamel cover, decorated with a diamond star and an elaborate floral design, the leaves of the flower being set with tiny diamonds.

Joseph B. Kruskal, Had Lincoln Watch

Furrier Acquired Memento From Antique Dealer

Joseph B. Kruskal, sixty-five, a furrier, who owned a famous "lost" watch which Abraham Lincoln had intended to present to his bride, Mary Todd, died Tuesday night in the Hospital for Joint Diseases. He lived at 21 East Fifty-second Street, and was a partner in Kruskal & Kruskal, furriers, of 150 East Thirtieth Street.

Mr. Kruskal obtained the watch from a Washington antique dealer in 1932 in payment of a bill. It was shown in an exhibit of Lincolniana here in 1936, and its dramatic history, reconstructed from letters, was revealed.

According to this account, Lincoln bought the watch in 1841, when he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Ill., paying \$300 for it. He had it inscribed "To Mary Todd from A. L., 1841," intending to present it to Miss Todd on New Year's Day, 1841. The date, according to historians, was to have been his wedding day, but he met Miss Todd, the two quarreled, and Lincoln left with the watch still in his pocket. Greatly upset, Lincoln later gave the watch to a Miss Mary N. Curtis of Louisville, whom he knew rather casually. When she saw the blue enamel and gold timepiece, studded with eight diamonds, she accepted it as a pledge of their engagement.

But when she opened the watch to wind it, she found the inscription to Mary Todd. She kept the watch for thirty-one years, then gave it to a friend, Miss Elizabeth De Witt, who retained it until financial difficulties forced her to sell it to the dealer from whom Mr. Kruskal acquired it.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lillian Kruskal; three sons, William H., Martin D. and Joseph B. Kruskal jr.; and two daughters, Mrs. Peter H. Kahn and Mrs. George A. Evnine.

(COPY)

LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

301-333 Library Place

Louisville 3, Kentucky

March 8, 1952

Mr. Foster Cannon
310 East Mason Street
Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Cannon:

In answer to your letter of March 4, we do not have a Louisville City Directory for the year 1841, but we checked 1843/44, 1845/46, 1869/73 but find no Mary N. Curtis.

Filson Club Library checked the 1841 directory, but found no Mary N. Curtis.

We have Lincoln Lore No. 730 April 5, 1943 published by Lincoln National Life Insurance Company Fort Wayne, Indiana. This issue is entitled clocks and watches of Lincoln.

One paragraph is headed Lady's Blue Watch.

A watch Lincoln is said to have purchased for Mary Todd, and then failed to make the presentation, was given much attention in the New York Times of February 10, 1936. The inscription in the watch reads, "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L. 1841." According to the news item the watch was presented to Miss Mary N. Curtis of Louisville, Kentucky, on a memorable January afternoon, 1841, after Mr. Lincoln had broken his engagement with Mary. The watch was later presented to Miss Elizabeth DeWitt and still later came into the possession of a Washington antique dealer, then passed to a New York furrier. The story about the same watch appears in the New York Tribune for January 4, 1932 in which it claimed Lincoln paid \$300 for the watch.

Perhaps the Lincoln National Life Foundation can help you locate authentic information on her.

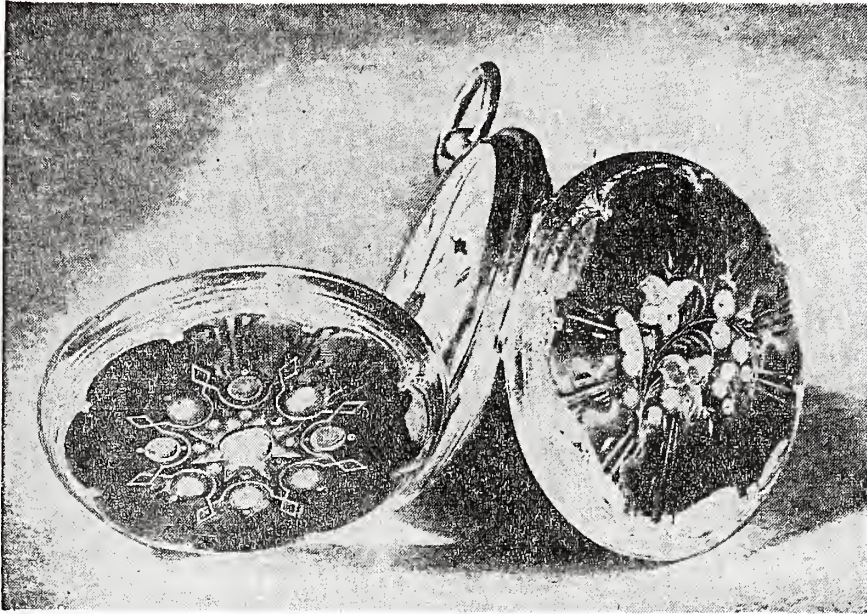
Yours very truly,

(Signed) Edna J. Grauman

Head Reference Department

EJG/hs

Watch Lincoln Bought for Mary Todd but Gave to Another, Is in Milwaukee



This shows the historic blue enamel timepiece that Lincoln meant to present to his bride on their scheduled wedding day, Jan. 1, 1841, but never gave to her. The photo enlarges the watch slightly. Both front and rear covers are opened. The front of the hunting case has a

star design with nine fairly large diamonds and many diamond chips. Three of the larger diamonds and most of the chips are missing. The back case cover has a floral design and is also studded with diamonds. The watch is in perfect running order.

—Journal Staff

Abe Failed to Appear at His Wedding to Present the Jeweled Timepiece

By LARRY LAWRENCE
of The Journal Staff
and CHARLES D. STEWART

The watch Abraham Lincoln purchased to give Mary Todd on the day set for their wedding, Jan. 1, 1841, is in Milwaukee.

Mary Todd did not get that watch. Lincoln changed his mind and failed to show up for his wedding. But Mary and Lincoln were married nearly two years after that New Year's day he had ruined for her. After the marriage Lincoln always referred to that day as "the fatal first of January, 1841."

It is certain that Mary Todd never got to see the beautiful, diamond studded, blue enamel, 18 carat timepiece that had been bought to be her wedding present. It is likely that she never even heard of it. It was lost to the world for generations.

Lincoln had given it to another girl. Another Mary. Mary Curtis.

Behind the watch is one of the most remarkable love stories in American history. After he had failed to appear for his wedding,

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL Green Sheet

Milwaukee, Wis.

Tuesday, February 12, 1952

Copyright, 1952, by
The Journal Company

Foster Cannon, 310 E. Mason st., a collector of Lincoln mementos, a dealer in rare books and a member of "the Civil War Roundtable," a group of historically minded Milwaukeeans, is shown here with the watch that Abraham Lincoln bought to present to his bride on their wedding day that was set for Jan. 1, 1841. He did not give it to her. He did not show up for his wedding. The velvet lined rosewood box in which it came is also shown. Cannon purchased the watch a few days ago from a dealer in the east.

—Journal Staff



Lincoln must have felt that he was through with Mary Todd for life, so thoroughly separated from her, that he had given the sentimental token to a girl he knew only slightly. He must have wanted to be rid of that wedding watch, of everything that could remind him of Mary Todd.

Did he regret the gift throughout the rest of his life? Did he think of the sacrifice he had made in paying the \$300 for the diamond studded watch? That was a great sum to Lincoln, to nearly everyone in Springfield in 1840.

Throughout his lifetime, lived with the woman he had once disappointed, that watch must have kept ticking in his mind, reminding him over and over of the "fatal first of January." Did he at times also think of his first love, Ann Rutledge who had died and left him with a broken heart? Did his love for the departed Ann have anything to do with his failure to show up for his wedding on New Year's day of 1841?

This much is known. Lincoln was overwhelmed with the thought of marrying Mary Todd, the educated southern belle. He was moody and depressed and had tried to break his engagement to her before the wedding date was set. Mary Todd had moved from Louisville, Ky. to Springfield, Ill. to live with her sister Mrs. Ninian Edwards. She had taken a leading part in society and was a much sought after young lady.

Courted by Douglas

The most eligible bachelors of the town courted her. Among her swains was Stephen Douglas, the little giant of Illinois politics. But Mary liked Lincoln, the tall, gangling pioneer without formal education. They became engaged in 1840. She had told her sister, who opposed the match, that she saw signs of greatness in Lincoln, that he might even become president. To her sister and others in Springfield then that seemed extremely silly.

From the beginning of the engagement there were difficulties. Lincoln apparently doubted his ability to make Mary happy. Was not she a social leader who had been educated in the most exclusive boarding schools? He was only a self-educated, struggling lawyer. They quarreled frequently. Mary had great ambition. Lincoln wanted only to make a living and help the poor man out of difficulties. Toward the end of 1840 Lincoln had de-



—Journal Staff

This photo shows the inscription inside the back cover of the watch Abraham Lincoln bought for Mary Todd but gave to another girl. It reads: "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L. 1841." Note the hole for the winding key and the hole for setting the hands. The Swiss works are in perfect running order.

cided he could not marry Mary Todd. He told his law partner Joshua Speed that he was going to write Mary a note and break the engagement. Speed told him that was a cowardly thing to do, that he should tell Mary to her face.

Love Scene

Lincoln went to the Edwards' home to tell Mary he could not marry her. She sobbed as if her heart would break and Lincoln took her in his arms and kissed her. It was during this scene, it is thought by historians, that the date for the wedding was set. It was after this scene that Lincoln picked out the beautiful watch to give to his bride on their wedding day. He had inscribed, inside the back cover, "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L. 1841."

The wedding supper was cooked. The guests were assembled in the Edwards home. They waited. Lincoln did not appear. They waited until late in the day.

Mary Todd sobbed, then stamped her foot.

Mrs. Edwards said, "Mary, you are well rid of that uncouth man." Lincoln had quietly left Springfield. He did not come back for two weeks. When he returned he went to the home of William Butler where he boarded. Mary Curtis, a Kentucky beauty who looked something like Mary Todd was visiting at the Butler home. Lincoln stepped into the parlor and saw Miss Curtis. He sat and chatted with her for a little while.

Sparkling With Diamonds

Suddenly Lincoln stood up and said, "Mary, I have something for you." He produced a rosewood box, handed it to her and stalked out of the room. Later she said that he looked pale and unhappy. Mary opened the velvet lined box and looked at the beautiful watch, sparkling with diamonds. She took it to her room and left Springfield for Louisville the next morning. She did not wind the watch for several days after she arrived at her home. She prob-

Lincoln

From page 1, column 8

ably had felt that she was engaged to Lincoln. Such a gift could mean only love, she probably reasoned.

To wind it with the key she had to open the back of the case. When she opened it, she saw the inscription to Miss Mary Todd. What her feelings were then she never told anyone. In fact she did not mention the watch to anyone for several weeks. But she kept it and cherished it for 31 years. Lincoln had become president, freed the slaves, preserved the Union and been assassinated before Mary Curtis wrote a line about the watch. She was old and ill in June of 1872. She wrote a letter to her friend, Miss Elizabeth Cobb DeWitt who was then living in Washington, D. C., and was some years younger. The letter which has been preserved with the watch and which is now in Milwaukee reads:

June 7, 1872.

My Dear Elizabeth: With the return of spring I am so happy as I love the flowers and all nature in her new coat of green. Most of all I long for the time when I will see you again and we will talk of the times spent so happily together. Only a sweet memory, dear Elizabeth, cherished so fondly.

I wonder do you still draw? We could make some drawings together. I still cling to my art. I know you used to do very beautiful things.

Dear Elizabeth your birthday is on the 29th. You see, I remember it always and I want you to make me very happy this year and accept a present that will give me much happiness in the giving, as it was a very happy and sad remembrance.

Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave me that memorable afternoon of January, 1841, with the inscription inside: "To Miss Mary Todd from A. L., 1841"? Well, I want you to accept it from me and keep it as a remembrance of me, when I pass to the great beyond, dear Elizabeth.

I feel sure you will do this for me as it will make me very happy. I will send the watch by Harry upon his return. Dr. White feels that my cold is im-

Turn to LINCOLN, page 2, col. 3

proving and I will be well again this summer.

Good-by, dearest, faithful friend. I so hope to see you soon. With all my love, Mary.

Miss De Witt kept the watch for 18 years. Until then it was practically unknown to the world. In 1890 Miss De Witt was old and poor. It is believed she had been living on borrowed money for a time. She knew that Hugh J. Grant, a friend and mayor of New York city was a collector of Lincoln mementos. She sold the watch to him. No one seems to know how much he paid for the watch but it was more than \$3,000 as one of her letters to the mayor proves. Here is that letter. It is also in Milwaukee with the watch.

My Dear Mr. Mayor: It gives me great personal pleasure to feel that the watch of our great president, Abraham Lincoln, shall rest in your collection. I only could feel happy in knowing it was appreciated to the full extent of its historical value. This I know you do. Thanking you sincerely for your check which is so much appreciated as 3,000 of it goes at once to Mr. Prescott. Only the greatest necessity would permit me

to feel satisfied in parting with it. Could we expect the great honor of having you for dinner at your pleasure next week?

... Believe me very sincerely, Elizabeth Cob De Witt.

How long Mayor Grant kept the watch is not known. Just what he did with it is not known. It is possible that he, too, came upon hard times and sold it. It is known that in 1898 the watch was owned by a Mrs. John D. Simmonds, who put great store by it. A Mr. Scott, not identified, apparently knew of the watch and wanted to buy it.

A letter in manuscript, written by J. Reynolds, sr., secretary for Mr. Simmonds, said:

May 3, 1898.

Dear Mr. Scott: Mr. John D. Simmonds has directed me to say that the watch presented by Abraham Lincoln to Mary Curtis is not, under any circumstances, for sale. It is possible that it will be presented to his Grace, the archbishop of New York, by Mr. Simmonds, to be given to the Metropolitan museum of New York. Very truly yours, J. Reynolds, sr.

There the history of the watch becomes a blank again. What happened to it from that date until Dec. 8, 1931, is a mystery. On that date an old woman, not identified in records, came into the shop of a dealer in rare documents, coins and stamps in Washington, D. C., and offered the watch for sale. It was in the original velvet line, rosewood box. With it she presented the original letters that

have been quoted in this story. The dealer purchased the watch and letters. She made the dealer swear that he would never reveal her name. The dealer put the watch up for sale, and Mano Swartz of Baltimore, Md., an art collector, purchased it. Still the watch had never been exhibited publicly. Swartz, shortly before his death, sold the watch to Joseph Kruskal of New York city.

Displayed Once

In 1936 in New York city an exhibition called "The Life and Time of Abraham Lincoln Exhibition," was held. The watch and letters were put on public display for the first time in history. The items in the display were insured for \$200,000.

The watch passed to other hands after that one display and at last has reached Milwaukee. It was purchased by Foster Cannon, a dealer in rare books, and a collector of Lincoln mementos.

It is hoped that Milwaukee will get a chance to see this watch that has so much romantic history in it and sheds a great light on the unhappy incidents that shadowed the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Just Folks ^{BY Edgar A. Guest}

Lincoln

When will another man arise
As tender, thoughtful, brave and wise,

A leader who will dare to be
As incorruptible as he?

We need a Lincoln, unafraid;
Not by the power of office swayed;

One flatterers cannot deceive;
A man to trust in and believe.

Dear Lord, Thou sent us Lincoln
when

A grievous wrong divided men.
With wisdom grace a true man's brow.

We need another Lincoln now.

Touch with Thy spirit one to be
As valorous for the right as he;
One steadfast to the truth to stay
Who will be faithful, come what may.

FOSTER CANNON - BOOKS

310 EAST MASON STREET

PHONE BROADWAY 2-7276

MILWAUKEE 2, WIS.

March 12, 1952.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Recently I purchased a watch which I was led to believe is an authentic Lincoln memento, but which I now view with some doubt, due to the opinions of two or three others who are considered Lincoln scholars. I believe that you are acquainted with this item, however I am enclosing an article that appeared in one of our local newspapers on February 12th, which I believe will be self-explanatory. Of course there are some obvious errors, which you will detect.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter received by me this morning, from Miss Grauman of the Louisville Free Public Library, in response to one I had written March 4th, asking for some information on Mary N. Curtis, who, according to Ann Outler's article on this watch, in the February, 1946 issue of Colliers' Magazine, was a "Louisville belle". As far as you know, is there any basis for believing that there was a Mary Curtis in Springfield in January, 1841, and that Lincoln could have seen her?

I would greatly appreciate any information you can give me in regard to this matter, as I would not like to offer this watch as the genuine article if there is a ~~any~~ possibility that it is a fake.

Thanking you in advance for your help, I am

Yours sincerely,

Foster Cannon

March 13, 1952

Mr. Foster Cannon
310 East Mason St.
Milwaukee, 2, Wisc.

My dear Mr. Cannon:

I think your very best chance to get some authentic information on the watch in your possession is by writing to Mrs. James Randall, 1101 West Oregon, Urbana, Illinois.

I am sure that if anyone can speak with authority on this subject, she would be able to do so.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BB

Director



Collector's Corner

by Rosemary McKittrick

SANTA FE, N.M. — They came from different worlds. Mary Todd was young, highly educated, popular and a Southern belle. Abraham Lincoln was self-educated, insecure and a gawky young unknown.

In the end, they played their hands in a destiny neither one could have ever imagined.

For now, it was brand new. The year was 1841. The couple planned to marry soon and Lincoln searched for the perfect gift for Mary.

He settled on an 18 karat gold, blue-enamel, diamond-studded timepiece. It was an extravagant gift for a struggling, attorney to buy. But he loved Mary and it seemed like the ideal thing for his sophisticated lady.

On the inside, back cover Lincoln had the following engraved, "To Miss Mary Todd from A.L. 1841."

As the wedding grew closer, Lincoln's law partners say he grew moody and depressed. According to accounts of W.H. Hearndon, one of his partners, the bride and guests of the couple were gathered together on Jan. 1, 1841, waiting

for a bridegroom who never showed up.

Another account of the same day says that Lincoln only broke off the engagement with Mary that day. The actual wedding date hadn't been set.

One thing for sure, Lincoln never gave Mary Todd the watch he picked out for her.

Several weeks later Lincoln returned home to the boardinghouse where he lived in Springfield, Ill. Another celebrated Kentucky beauty named Mary Curtis was visiting.

Lincoln and Curtis met several times before. This time they sat in the parlor talking. With no warning Lincoln reached

into his pocket and handed Curtis the watch.

Then he walked upstairs to his room. The woman was stunned.

The next day Curtis returned home to Louisville. When she took the watch out to wind it, she read the engraving inside. It was Mary Todd's name, not her own.

She realized Lincoln probably gave it to her to rid himself of some unpleasant memory.

She put the watch in a trunk and there it stayed for 31 years. In the meantime Lincoln and Todd finally did marry on Nov. 4, 1842.

When Curtis was dying, she gave the Lincoln watch to close friend, Mary DeWitt. In a letter dated June 7, 1872, she writes to DeWitt.

"Do you remember the beautiful blue watch with the diamond stones our beloved President Lincoln gave to me that memorable afternoon of January, 1841 ... I want you to accept it from me and keep it as a remembrance of me, dear Elizabeth."

Over the years, the watch exchanged hands a number of times. In 1936, it was placed on display in New York City as part of an exhibit titled "The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln."

For the first time in 50 years, the watch came up for sale at auction on February 20. It was offered in The Henry E. Luhrs Collection of important American

historical manuscripts at Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas, Texas. Luhrs collected ephemera from American historical figures and had a particular fascination with Lincoln.

The watch sold for \$71,700. It still works and came with a winding key and the original wooden box.

Here are current values for other Lincoln items sold in the auction.

Abraham Lincoln

Bust of Lincoln; bronze-finish; 53 inches high; no markings; \$6,692.

Document; signed Abraham Lincoln; issues a draft call to Pennsylvania; one-page; 1863; \$17,925.

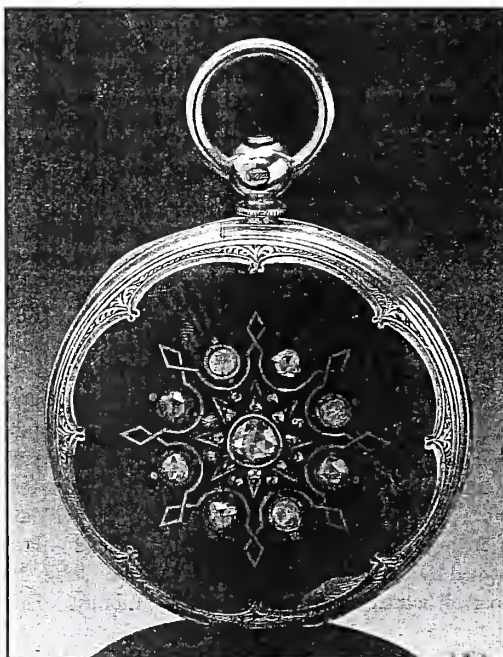
Document; signed Abraham Lincoln; authorizing Sec. of State to affix the Seal of the U.S. to document proclaiming Thanksgiving Day; one-page; 1863; \$33,460.

Autograph letter; signed A. Lincoln; Lincoln advises Gov. Andrew Curtin on how to address growing secession crisis; one-page; 1860; \$131,450.

Mary Todd Lincoln

Music box; desktop; with inkwell; elaborately carved walnut; in the form of an ear of corn; includes original key; 15 inches long; \$7,170.

Rosemary McKittrick writes about art, antiques and collectibles for *Collector's Journal*. Read more of Rosemary's articles at www.LiveAuctionTalk.com.



EIGHTEEN KARAT GOLD, blue-enamel, diamond-studded timepiece sold for \$71,700. — photo courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries

Cleaning Out? Moving? Estate Sale?

Don't wait until the hammer is ready to fall — promote your next big event in *Collectors Journal*!

Call Sherry today!
319-472-4763

Guns and Civil War Collectibles

Auction Company: **Pacific Auction Companies**
Auction Date/Time: **Saturday, May 10th, 2008 at 1:00PM MST**
Location: **1270 Boston Ave
Longmont, CO 80501**

GAME MOUNTS- Impressive full body mount Brown Bear, Massive Moose head mount, RARE ITEMS- A rare opportunity to purchase items of historical significance from a Longmont Estate-A beautiful and 100's of fine firearms.

Inspection Dates: **Saturday, May 10th, 2008
09:00 - 1:00 PM**

Description:

GAME MOUNTS- Impressive full body mount Grizzly Bear, Massive Moose head mount, Caribou head mount. **RARE ITEMS-** A rare opportunity to purchase one of a kind items of historical significance from a Longmont Estate- A beautiful watch with provenance and certification from Rocky Mountain EMTEC of Denver engraved as follows- *"To Miss Mary Todd-A token of my Everlasting Devotion and Affection-Abe Lincoln"*. **ALSO-** A case of 4 pistols from the same estate all with ties to the infamous gangster- John Dillinger. **FIREARMS-** Approximately 200 guns including an 1874 Sharps Business Rifle, Sharps pepperbox derringer, 2 Remington Hepburns, 2 Civil War era Spencer carbines, Colt derringer, 50 BMG State Arms Co. Model S with tripod, Pre 64 Winchester model 70, 1943 Remington 03-A3, 1886 Winchester in 50 Express, 38 cal Colt Army Special, Winchester Buffalo Bill commemorative 30/30, Smith and Wesson K-22, Browning 1895 Hi-grade, Lefthanded Weatherby MKV-30-378 w/night force scope, Fanchi o/u 20 gauge, AK-47, Browning Auto 22 w/wheel site, Winchester model 70 in 270 w/leopard scope, Very rare Israeli night vision scope w/AR mount, Lyman super spot shot scope, Mid 1800's percussion rifle, Several M-1 Garand's, Several 1911 A-1's, and a good selection of hunting rifles and shotguns. Additional firearms are being added to the auction.

Terms & Conditions: Terms: Cash, Good Check, Visa, Mastercard and Discover. 10% Buyer's Premium

Pacific Auction Companies

ojpratt@pacificauction.com
<http://pacificauction.com>

POWERED BY:

auctionservices.com

[Back to Auction List](#) | [Back to Top](#) ↑

POWERED BY:

auctionservices.com

